

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247769

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

S E C R E T STATE 247769

EXDIS

FOLLOWING ROME 14145 SENT ACTION STATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
AMMAN BEIRUT KHARTOUM TEL AVIV TUNIS USUN DEC 19 RPT TO YOU

QUOTE

S E C R E T ROME 14145

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VT TS XF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S PAPAL AUDIENCE AND MEETING WITH
ITALIAN PRESIDENT

DEPT PLEASE PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: (A) ROME 13999; (B) TUNIS 7005

1. DURING DEC 19 CONVERSATION WITH VATICAN DESK OFFICER FOR MID-
EAST WE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FURTHER RECENT BOURGUIBA
VISIT. SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT BOURGUIBA HAD VERY BRIEFLY MENTIONED
HIS IDEA OF ROTATING MAYORSHIP FOR JERUSALEM, BUT HE DID NOT ENTER
QUESTION OF SOVEREIGN CONTROL OVER JERUSALEM OR OTHER DETAILS OF
SETTLEMENT. POPE ABSOLUTELY DID NOT, SOURCE ASSURED US, GIVE ANY
INDICATION THAT HE AGREED WITH HIS GUEST'S SUGGESTION OR THAT HE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 247769

"VERY SATISFIED WITH IT."

2. SOURCE ALSO REITERATED THAT QUESTION OF HIM-NIMIERI VISIT DID NOT COME UP DURING BOURGUIBA'S TALKS WITH POPE. VATICAN SOURCE REPEATEDLY DESCRIBED BOURGUIBA'S PRESENTATION AS "VERY GENERALIZED AND VAGUE."

3. ITALIAN PRES LEONE'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TOLD DCM THAT BOURGUIBA/LEONE CONVERSATION ON DEC 14 HAD NO REPEAT NO SUBSTANCE. HE DESCRIBED BOURGUIBA AS "AN OLD MAN."

4. OTHER ITALIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN LESS KIND IN DESCRIBING BOURGUIBA'S BEHAVIOR DURING MEETING WITH PRES LEONE. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT BOURGUIBA WAS ALMOST INCOHERENT; HE MADE REFERENCES TO HIS PLEASURE AT BEING HERE IN FRANCE AND TO CONVERSATIONS WITH MUSSOLINI. WHEN ITALIANS RAISED SUBJECT OF ITALIAN ASSISTANCE DURING TUNISIAN FLOODS. BOURGUIBA REPORTEDLY RESPONDED "WHAT FLOODS?"

5. WE HAVE QUERIED ITALIAN OFFICIALS ON BOURGUIBA'S PUBLIC STATEMENT DURING AND AFTER HIS VISIT TO ROME CONCERNING ASSURANCES THAT BOUMEDIENNE AND QADHAFI HAD PROMISED TO SUPPLY ALL OIL ITALY NEEDED. ITALIANS HAVE REPLIED THAT GIVEN BOURGUIBA'S STATE OF MIND DURING VISIT, THEY COULD NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE HIS STATEMENT ON OIL SERIOUSLY. VOLPE UNQUOTE RUSH

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